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The Crucible:

1. **Confessing to a crime you didn’t commit in order to avoid punishment is wise.**

The act of confessing to a crime you didn’t commit just to avoid punishment is ethically incorrect; meaning that it is morally wrong. However, most people would do anything to avoid getting in trouble, especially if it’s very serious. From a very young age, we start lying and making up stories to save ourselves from being punished and to seem like the innocent child we truly weren’t. As time passes, we still go through the same situation, only the lies and punishments are worse. So, if you were told that confessing to a crime, you weren’t guilty of, would save you from being punished, would you? Whichever way you go about this situation, guilty or not, you will have to face some consequences. If you do confess, you may not be physically punished, but besides not having any dignity, or the self-respect to fight for your justice, you will be judged and considered a criminal by many people, this can have a negative effect on your reputation and social life. If you don’t confess, then as is states, you will be punished. Would you rather live your entire life with a reputation as a criminal, and the thought of being too weak to defend yourself, of have to face the consequences of a crime you are innocent of? The right thing to do would be to remain innocent and honest with yourself and everyone around you. But, obviously, the easy and less painful thing to do would be to confess. It doesn’t make much sense to punish someone who claims they are innocent, while they don’t do anything to those that plead guilty. Considering the circumstances nowadays, committing a crime goes on your record, which makes it harder to find jobs, got to school, etc., so there might not be any “punishment” but there are consequences, and they might not be worth it. Lying to save yourself from punishment, is like taking a shortcut. It is easier to work hard and do something right, than take a “shortcut” or in this case lie, and risk any problems or mistakes along the way. For example, when you’re taking a test and decide to cheat, it is considered the easy way out, until you get caught, then you’ll have to suffer the consequences. Sometimes you might get lucky, and they don’t find out you cheated, but it’s not worth taking the risk. Anyone can agree or disagree with this statement, and many arguments can originate from it, but truth is that unless you’ve been in a situation similar to this one, you don’t really know what to say, and are just stating your opinions or beliefs. Maybe, when you approach a time, where you would have to make the decision to plead guilty, even though you’re innocent, your opinion would change. Perhaps for the time being, you think it is right to always be honest with yourself, which is true, but there might be certain situations where a lie may have to be told.

1. **The difference between right and wrong is clear.**

Most of the time and for a majority of people, the difference between right and wrong is clear. From the time we are born, we are constantly learning the differences between them. Parents are always correcting children’s behavior, which teaches them what they should and shouldn’t do. Even as an adult you are still learning new things, and reasons as to why you are making the right or wrong decision. Usually, the difference between what is right and wrong is common sense. The term “wrong” implies anything that is incorrect, unjust, or immoral to our expectations. Of course what is “wrong” might vary to other people, because they might have different opinions. Wrong is what an individual views as the worst thing to do, while right is what an individual views as the best thing to do. The term “right” means anything that is morally good, justified, or acceptable. It is always best to make the right decision. For example, the night before taking a big test, the right thing to do would be to study for it, but the wrong thing to do would be to waste time and then have to cheat off of your neighbors test the next day. Making the decision of something that’s right and something that’s wrong is like a sixth sense in most people, because many times you are subconsciously making that decision. However, there are times that people do the wrong thing, because besides the fact that it is a bad idea, it seems like the most effective decision. For instance, when someone robs a bank they do it knowing the consequences; however they have a motive behind their plan, which in their mind and at that moment, seems like the right thing to do, until they get caught and sent to jail. Society has already set some standards for us to follow, known as “laws”.Law is a term which does not have a universally accepted definition, but one definition is that law is “a system of rules and guidelines which are enforced through social institutions to govern behavior”. It is against the law, or the wrong thing to do, to drive without wearing your seatbelt, drive under the influence, trespass, etc., these are wrong decisions that have already been decided for you, but other actions such as speaking to someone normally rather than cursing at them, or studying rather than cheating, are things you need to know on your own, and have been raised to understand. As a child, it is very important to know the difference between right and wrong, because as you get older the situations get worse, and your life will become harder. This all narrows down to morals; a person's standards of behavior or beliefs concerning what is and is not acceptable for them to do. The ability to morally decide a situation is an instinct which everyone follows, an instinct based on what society expects, and what we have been taught throughout the years.

1. **It is better to die for what you believe in rather than to lie to save your life.**

Everybody has their own opinions. In this case, there isn’t an obvious, more prevalent answer, because everyone has their own state of mind, and way of viewing things. The fact of the matter is that if you would rather die for what you believe in than lie to save your own life, then kudos to you for being so brave enough to risk your life. Most people would make-up the biggest lies if their lives were ever threatened, because honestly what would be more important, standing up for what you believe in, or living your life and having the opportunity each day to experience new things? A vast majority of the people would rather live their life as long as possible than die for what they believe. This probably sounds really selfish, but although they will be making a statement, and possibly be remembered by many, it is not worth giving up your life to try and change anyone’s opinion or to prove yourself about anything. There are many other ways to go about expressing your beliefs, which can be just as powerful and effective. However, there are many brave people that will die for what they believe in, and they should be acknowledged for that, because even if it’s not what you would’ve done or handled that particular situation, they still had the courage and boldness to fight for their principles. The decision to die for what you believe in rather than to lie and save your life also depends on many factors. You can argue either side based on what you know about today’s society, and cultures, but if you knew the situations being presented it would make much more sense. The severity of the problem presented plays an important part in a person’s opinion. For example, if you witnessed the murder of a close relative, and the killer told you that if you told the cops it was him he would kill you, would you lie to the police and let the serial killer free? Anyone with a conscience would go straight to the police, even if their lives were in danger. On the other hand, if your case is not as serious and not worth dying for, then a lie should be told. The word martyr means to kill someone because of their beliefs or religions. This concept has changed drastically throughout the years, and maybe at the time it had originated it was reasonable, considering that they were living during a very religious time where everyone had to believe in the same things, and they didn’t have the freedom there is today. Nowadays, this country is recognized for their liberty and justice, which makes it harder to accept the fact that someone would die fighting for their beliefs. You might think you are going to change the world’s point of view, or way of looking at things, but that is nearly impossible. There is always going to be people who have different perspectives on things.

1. **There is only one correct way to interpret the Bible.**

There cannot be only one correct way to interpret the bible, because if there were, there wouldn’t be so many religions based off of it. Although several people believe there is only one interpretation of the bible, it all depends on the religion they practice. For instance, if a catholic is talking to another catholic about the bible, they are going to agree on many things. However, if a catholic is talking to a Buddhist they are clearly going to disagree on some topics. In modern society, where everyone is allowed to express themselves freely, they each have their own perspective or ideas on things, including religion. There are people who believe there are more than one God’s, there are people who worship only one God, and there are even people who don’t believe in God. So when you ask someone to analyze or interpret the bible, expect to hear many different answers, because each person has a different point of view towards the bible. God created unique individuals, capable of creating their own opinions towards the bible. In reality, and as far as anyone knows, there is no correct way of interpreting the bible, it is considered to be very ambiguous because of its multiple meanings. It is likely that someone might tell you that the bible only has one meaning and they’ll explain what it means, but you have to keep in mind what religion they belong too, because they are probably just going to be telling you what they believe. Many arguments can be formed from this topic, because everyone’s opinion is different, and they might not agree with the practices of your religion, just like you might not agree with the practices of their religion. Many religions have originated from the bible, and clearly each and every religion has their differences. For example, Catholicism and Christianity are two different things, but often mistaken as one and the same. However, their basic foundation and principle is very different. Catholicism belongs to Christianity. Not all Christians are Catholics, but all Catholics are Christians. Both believe that Christ offered his life to save us.

1. **That which doesn’t destroy us only makes us stronger.**

This statement is very true because we can’t live our lives regretting or looking back at our mistakes. Whatever happened, you have to move on from it and expect to learn something new each time. The quote “That which does not kill us makes us stronger” written by philosopher Friedrich Nietzche is used to give people encouragement after they have gone through trying times and have survived such. The saying can also be used to give others comfort after a period of suffering and pain. Mistakes are a normal part of life, and there is nothing you can do to change that, or bring back time, but what you can do is allow those mistakes to have a positive impact on you, so that you can learn from them and hopefully build you into a stronger person than you already are. By taking this quote and applying it into your ideas or beliefs, it establishes a stronger, less vulnerable person within you. There is always going to be someone who will look up to you as a role model, and you wouldn’t want them to see you weak or sad, which is why you have to keep moving forward. What’s done is done, and there was nothing you could’ve have done about it.